

## Chapter Ind 55

### THEATERS AND ASSEMBLY HALLS

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**Ind 55.001 Theaters.** In the theater classification, are included all buildings or parts of buildings, containing an assembly hall, having a stage which may be equipped with curtains or permanent or movable scenery, or which is otherwise adaptable to the showing of plays, operas, motion pictures or similar forms of entertainment.

**Ind 55.01 Assembly halls. (1)** In the assembly hall classification are included all buildings, or parts of buildings, other than theaters, which will accommodate more than 100 persons for entertainment, recreation, worship or dining purposes.

**Note:** For assembly areas in connection with schools and other places of instruction, refer to ch. Ind 56.

**Note:** Funeral homes are considered places of worship.

(a) Every place of assembly which will accommodate not more than 100 persons shall conform to the requirements of ch. Ind 54.

**History:** 1-2-56; am. (1) (intro. par.), Register, March, 1972, No. 195, eff. 4-1-72; am. (1) (a), Register, January, 1980, No. 289, eff. 2-1-80.

**Ind 55.02 Class of construction. (1)** The capacities of buildings or parts of buildings in this classification for the various types of construction shall not exceed, and shall comply with, the following requirements:

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## MAXIMUM CAPACITIES

Type of Construction	With Stage	Without Stage
Type 1 and 2.....	No limit	No limit
Type 3 and 4.....	750	1,500
Type 5 and 6.....	500	1,000
Type 7 and 8.....	300	750

(a) Exception. For unlimited capacity, the fire protection of structural steel supporting the roof may be omitted for one-story buildings meeting type 1, 2 and 3 construction provided the building has no ground or basement floors. Heavy timber columns and roof framing may be substituted for structural steel framing. The roof decking shall be of noncombustible or heavy timber construction.

(2) Type 7 and 8 construction. (See s. Ind 51.03.) Where buildings of these classifications are erected of type 7 or 8 construction, the following restrictions shall apply:

(a) Not more than one story in height without a balcony, and with no ground floor or basement except a heating and fuel room enclosed with fire-resistive construction as specified in s. Ind 55.29, with all interior openings protected with self-closing fire-resistive doors as specified in s. Ind 51.047.

1. *Exception.* Places of worship are permitted to have a full basement and a balcony seating not more than 30 persons.

2. *Exception.* One-story and ground-floor assembly halls of type 7 or 8 construction will be permitted providing the following conditions are satisfied:

a. Both levels shall exit directly to grade. One exit stair from the lower level up to the exit discharge grade is permitted providing the stair is enclosed to the outside by 2-hour fire-resistive rated construction;

b. The ground story exterior walls shall be of masonry or concrete;

c. The lower level shall be separated from the upper level by 2-hour noncombustible fire-resistive rated construction or better. The first floor supports shall also be of 2-hour noncombustible fire-resistive rated construction;

d. All stairways shall be enclosed by at least 2-hour fire-resistive rated enclosures;

e. The maximum capacity of the building is limited to 750 occupants; and

f. All other requirements of ch. Ind 55 are satisfied.

3. *Exception.* Additions to existing buildings of type 7 or 8 construction having a basement or second floor, or both, will be permitted under the scope of ch. Ind 54 providing the following conditions are satisfied:

a. The building contains no other occupancy except the owner's private residence;

b. Public occupancy is prohibited in the basement and second floor;

c. The addition does not contain a basement, second floor or ground floor;

d. The public occupancy areas are divided by partitions, dividers and similar objects into definable areas having a maximum capacity of 100 occupants each. Each definable area shall have 2 independent, remote exits to the outside;

e. The total capacity of the buiding is limited to 750 occupants;

f. All other requirements of ch. Ind 54 are satisfied; and

g. This exception does not apply to buildings originally constructed within 5 years of submissions of plans for the addition.

(b) Located at least 20 feet from any other building or adjoining property line.

(c) Is not built in connection with a building used for any other purpose.

(3) Balconies accommodating more than 100. In any theater or assembly hall, balconies which accommodate more than 100 persons shall be type 1 or 2 construction as specified in s. Ind 51.03.

**History:** 1-2-56;(1); (1) (a); (2); (2) (a); (2) (b); (2) (c); (2) (d); (2) (e); (2) (f); (3); am. Register, June, 1956; No. 6, eff. 7-1-56; am. (1) (a), Register, August, 1957, No. 20, eff. 9-1-57; am. Register, January, 1961, No. 61, eff. 2-1-61; am. (2) (a), Register, February, 1971, No. 182, eff. 7-1-71; r. and recr. (2) (a) eff. 8-1-71 and exp. 1-1-72; cr. (2) (a) eff. 1-1-72, Register, July, 1971, No. 187; r. and recr. (1), am. (2) intro. par., and (3), Register, June, 1972, No. 198, eff. 1-1-73; cr. (1) (a), Register, September, 1973, No. 213, eff. 10-1-73; am. (2) (a), Register, May, 1974, No. 221, eff. 6-1-74; am. (1) (a), Register, July, 1974, No. 223, eff. 8-1-74; r. (2) (d) and (e), Register, December, 1977, No. 264, eff. 1-1-78; am. (1) (a), cr. (2) (a) 1. to 3., Register, December, 1978, No. 276, eff. 1-1-79; am. (2) (a) 2.c., Register, January, 1980, No. 289, eff. 2-1-80; am. (2) (a) 3.c., Register, December, 1981, No. 312, eff. 1-1-82.

**Ind 55.03 Height above grade. (1) THEATERS.** The height of the sills of the principal entrance doors to any theater, as defined in s. Ind 55.001, shall be not more than 18 inches above the outside grade at that point. The floor level at the highest row of seats on the main floor shall not be more than 6 feet above the outside grade at the main entrance; the floor level at the lowest row of seats on the main floor shall be not more than 6 feet below, or above, the grade at the nearest exit.

**(2) ASSEMBLY HALLS AND ROOF GARDENS ABOVE FIRST STORY.** Where assembly halls are provided above the first story, the following limitation of occupancy, type of construction and exit facilities shall apply:

Type of Construction	Maximum No. of Occupants	Height Above Grade
Type 1 and 2	No limit	See s. Ind 51.03†
Type 3 thru 6	400	2nd story
Type 3 thru 6	200	3rd and 4th story

†One smokeproof stair tower from the level of the assembly hall leading directly to the exterior at street grade shall be provided for every 750 persons capacity, or fraction thereof. These stairways shall be at least 44 inches wide and shall be in addition to other required stairways in the building.

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(3) **BASEMENT ASSEMBLY HALL.** An assembly hall may be placed in the basement of a type 1 or 2 building if the capacity does not exceed 2,500 persons, or in the basement of a building of type 3 through 6 construction if the capacity does not exceed 400 persons.

**History:** 1-2-56; r. and recr. Register, September, 1959, No. 45, eff. 10-1-59; am. (2) and (3), Register, June, 1972, No. 198, eff. 1-1-73; am. (2), Register, September, 1973, No. 213, eff. 10-1-73.

**Ind 55.04 Exposure and courts.** (1) Every theater or assembly hall which accommodates more than 600 persons shall have at least 3 walls abutting on streets, alleys, or open courts.

(2) The wall containing the main entrance to any theater or assembly hall shall abut on a street. The lobby or passageway leading from the main entrance doors to the foyer or auditorium shall be direct and unobstructed and of a minimum width equal to the sum of the widths of the main entrance doors. There shall be no openings from other occupancies to such a corridor or passageway.

(3) The width of every exit court shall be at least 6 feet for an occupancy not exceeding 500 persons, and shall be increased at the rate of one foot per each 500 persons additional. Every such court shall lead to a public thoroughfare, either directly, or through a passageway of equal width, not less than 8 feet high enclosed with unpierced 4-hour fire-resistant walls, ceiling and floor as specified in s. Ind 51.04. The floor and ceiling shall be designed for a live load of not less than 150 pounds per square foot. No such court, or passageway shall be used for storage or any other purpose whatsoever.

**History:** 1-2-56; am. (3), Register, February, 1971, No. 182, eff. 7-1-71; r. and recr. (3) eff. 8-1-71 and exp. 1-1-72; cr. (3) eff. 1-1-72, Register, July, 1971, No. 187.

**Ind 55.05 Separation from other occupancies.** (1) Every theater and assembly hall shall be separated from any other occupancy by an absolute occupancy separation as specified in s. Ind 51.08, except that a special occupancy separation as specified in s. Ind 51.08 may be used between an assembly hall accommodating not more than 750 persons and any other non-hazardous occupancy.

(2) For assembly halls of unlimited capacity located on upper floors of type 1 and 2 buildings which are served by elevators, the elevator openings may be permitted under the requirements for special occupancy separation specified in s. Ind 51.08, but otherwise absolute occupancy separation is required.

(3) A chemical laboratory or other occupancy where flammable or explosive liquids or gases are used or stored built in connection with a building used for a theater or assembly hall shall be separated from the theater or assembly hall by 4-hour fire-resistant walls and unpierced 4-hour fire-resistant floors above and below as specified in s. Ind 51.04. All openings in the wall to adjoining parts of the building shall be protected by means of self-closing fire-resistant door assemblies as specified in s. Ind 51.047.

(4) An occupancy separation is not required between a church and a day school operated by the church, providing the building complies with

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the requirements of chs. Ind 55 and 56. Where these 2 chapters differ, the more stringent requirement shall apply.

(5) Every theater and assembly hall shall be separated from a storage garage or a repair garage as specified in s. Ind 59.22.

**History:** 1-2-56; am. Register, January, 1961, No. 61, eff. 2-1-61; am. (3), Register, February, 1971, No. 182, eff. 7-1-71; r. and recr. (3) eff. 8-1-71 and exp. 1-1-72; cr. (3) eff. 1-1-72, Register, July, 1971, No. 187; am. (2), Register, June, 1972, No. 198, eff. 1-1-73; cr. (4), Register, December, 1978, No. 276, eff. 1-1-79; am. (1) and (3), cr. (6), Register, December, 1981, No. 312, eff. 1-1-82.

**Ind 55.06 Capacity.** (1) The following table includes various types of occupancy within the scope of this section, together with the method to be used in determining the capacity.

(2) No greater number of persons than the number thus established shall be permitted in any theater or assembly hall.

Use or Occupancy	Basis of Capacity
(a) Arenas and field houses.....	4 sq. ft. per person. Use seated areas only.
(b) Assembly halls, with stage .....	7 sq. ft. per person.
(c) Banquet halls .....	10 sq. ft. per person.
(d) Churches (auditoriums) .....	7 sq. ft. per person.
(e) Churches (dining rooms) .....	10 sq. ft. per person.
(f) Dance halls .....	10 sq. ft. per person.
(g) Dining rooms.....	10 sq. ft. per person.
(h) Gymnasiums.....	6 sq. ft. per person for seated space. 15 sq. ft. per person for unseated space.
(i) Lecture halls.....	7 sq. ft. per person.
(j) Lodge halls .....	6 sq. ft. per person for seated space. 15 sq. ft. per person for unseated space.
(k) Skating rinks.....	45 sq. ft. per person.
(l) Theaters.....	7 sq. ft. per person.
(m) Theater lobbies .....	7 sq. ft. per person.

(3) The capacity of theaters and theater lobbies must be combined to determine the theater capacity.

(4) (a) Every theater or assembly hall having movable seats shall display a sign stating the maximum number of persons permitted by code.

1. The sign shall be placed in a conspicuous place at the main entrance to each theater or assembly hall.

2. The sign shall have the following wording: "Limit (Number) Persons." The maximum number of persons shall be determined by the capacity as permitted by sub. (2) and s. Ind 55.12. The lettering shall be

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white on a dark background. The letters shall be not less than 1½ inches in height and the number shall be not less than 3 inches in height.

*History:* 1-2-56; cr. (4) (a), Register, July, 1966, No. 127, eff. 8-1-66; r. (2) (k), renum. (2) (l) (m) (n) to be (k) (l) and (m), Register, September, 1973, No. 213, eff. 10-1-73; am. (2) (k), Register, December, 1981, No. 312, eff. 1-1-82.

**FP Ind 55.07 Number and location of exits.** (1) Every floor and balcony of a theater and assembly hall shall be provided with not less than 2 exits, placed as far apart as practicable and so located that if any exit is blocked, some other exit will still be available from every part.

(a) *Exception:* In places of worship, only one exit will be required from a balcony seating not more than 30 persons.

(2) Where more than 600 persons are accommodated, there shall be at least 3 exits and where more than 1,000 persons are accommodated, there shall be at least 4 exits.

(3) Exits shall be distributed on all sides which adjoin streets, alleys or open courts.

**FP Ind 55.08 Type of exits.** (1) The required exits from any part of a theater or assembly hall shall be exit doorways, stairways or ramps.

(2) All exits to grade from a higher or lower level shall be stairways or approved ramps. In all theaters and in assembly halls having a capacity of more than 400 persons, where the exit rise is not more than 3 feet approved ramps shall be used. By approved ramp is meant an incline located inside the building and having a slope of not more than one foot of rise in 8 feet.

(3) Stairway exits shall be interior stairways, or smokeproof towers as specified in s. Ind 51.17; except that "B" type fire escapes may be used as exits from balconies for not more than one-half the required exit width, if located against blank walls.

**FP Ind 55.09 Stairways.** (1) Every stairway in a theater or assembly hall shall be enclosed as specified in s. Ind 51.18 with the following exceptions:

(a) Monumental stairways from the main floor to the first balcony need not be enclosed provided the balcony is served by additional enclosed stairways as specified in ss. Ind 51.02 (11) and 55.07.

(b) Stairways from the basement to the first floor of a single story place of worship need not be enclosed if they lead directly to the exits.

(2) A room may be placed under a stairway platform landing of 2-hour fire-resistive construction or better provided such room does not have combustible materials or hazardous equipment stored or operated therein. The partitions shall be constructed of noncombustible materials. All openings shall be protected with 20-minute fire door assemblies, or equivalent.

(3) Stairways and steps which have more than 3 risers shall have handrails on both sides.

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(4) Every stairway used by the public in a theater or assembly hall shall have a uniform rise of not more than 7½ inches and a uniform tread of not less than 10 inches, measuring from tread to tread and from riser to riser. No winders shall be used and there shall be not less than 3 nor more than 16 risers in any run.

(a) *Exception.* Less than 3 risers may be used to elevated altars, podiums and similar areas in churches provided the elevated area is not part of a required exit passageway.

**Note.** See s. Ind 51.16 for general stairway requirements.

**History:** 1-2-56; am. Register, January, 1961, No. 61, eff. 2-1-61; r. and recr. Register, February, 1968, No. 146, eff. 3-1-68; am. (4), Register, February, 1971, No. 182, eff. 7-1-71; am. (2), Register, December, 1974, No. 228, eff. 1-1-76; am. (1) (intro.) and cr. (4) (a), Register, December, 1978, No. 276, eff. 1-1-79; am. (1) (a), Register, December, 1981, No. 312, eff. 1-1-82.

**Ind 55.10 Exit doorways and doors.** (1) Every required single exit doorway shall contain a standard exit door as specified in s. Ind 51.15. For double doors, with or without mullions, the width of each door may be reduced to 2 feet 6 inches. **FP**

(2) No single door or leaf of a double door, shall be more than 3 feet 6 inches wide, and no 2 doors shall be hinged together.

(3) No rolling, sliding or revolving door shall be counted as an exit from any theater or assembly hall, nor shall any such door be permitted where it would be liable to be used by the public as an exit.

(4) Sills at all exit doorways shall be level and flush with adjacent inside floors and ramps. Where an aisle or passageway leads to an exit from either side of the exit doorway there shall be a level floor space at the doorway subtending the width of the aisle and the doorway.

**Ind 55.11 Exit lights.** (1) In every theater and assembly hall, except church auditoriums, exit lights shall be provided immediately over all exit doorways, and in such other places as may be necessary to direct the occupants to exit doorways and to a street, alley or exit court. The installation of such exit lights shall comply in all respects with the provisions of the Wisconsin state electrical code, vol. 2, ch. ILHR 16, Wis. Adm. Code. **FP**

(2) Every light over an exit doorway shall be a red illuminated sign bearing the word EXIT or OUT in plain letters not less than 5 inches in height.

(3) All exit lights shall remain lighted during each occupancy and until the occupants have left the building.

**Ind 55.12 Required exit width.** (1) The total required exit width from a building level shall be in accordance with the requirements of ss. Ind 51.15 (6) and 51.16 (3). **FP**

(2) In theaters, the width of the front entrance shall be not less than ½ of the total required exit width.

**History:** 1-2-56; am. (1), Register, June, 1972, No. 198, eff. 1-1-73; am. (1), Register, December, 1974, No. 228, eff. 1-1-75.

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**Ind 55.13 Seating.** All chairs, seats and benches used for the purpose of assembly seating shall conform to the requirements of subch. V, Assembly Seating Facilities, of ch. Ind 62.

**History:** 1-2-58; am. Register, January, 1961, No. 61, eff. 2-1-61; r. (2), renum. (3) to (6) to be (2) to (5), Register, January, 1980, No. 289, eff. 2-1-80; r. and recr., Register, December, 1981, No. 312, eff. 1-1-82.

**FP Ind 55.14 Width of aisles.** (1) Aisles having seats on both sides shall not be less than 2 feet 10 inches wide at the beginning and shall increase in width toward the exits at the rate of  $\frac{1}{4}$  inch per foot of run; or the aisle may have a uniform width not less than the average width of the foregoing calculation. No wall aisle shall be less than 3 feet wide and no other straight aisle shall be less than 3 feet 6 inches wide.

(2) There shall be a cross aisle leading to each required side exit. Cross aisles shall not be less than 6 feet 8 inches back to back of adjacent rows of seats.

**Ind 55.15 Lobbies and foyers.** The width of lobbies and foyers shall be determined on the same basis as required for exits in s. Ind 55.12, but shall in no case be less than 5 feet wide, and shall be so designed and apportioned as to prevent congestion and confusion. Lobbies and foyers which serve as means of egress shall be at least equal in combined width to the required width of the stairways, passageways, aisles or exit doorways leading to them.

**Ind 55.16 Inclines and aisle steps.** (1) To overcome any difference in level between courts, corridors, lobbies, passageways or aisles required, or used, in egress from a theater or an assembly hall, approved ramps as specified in s. Ind 55.08 shall be employed where the difference in elevation does not exceed 3 feet, except that this requirement need not apply to balconies.

(2) Steps in balcony aisles shall extend the full width of the aisle and shall have a uniform rise and run as specified in s. Ind 55.09. No handrails will be required.

**FP Ind 55.17 Obstruction.** (1) All lobbies, aisles, passageways and doorways shall be kept free from furniture, drapes, display equipment, merchandise, vending machines and other obstructions, and no person except an employe shall be allowed to stand in or occupy, any of the aisles, passageways, corridors or lobbies during any performance or public gathering. Except that patrons may be allowed to wait in a lobby or similar space if such use does not encroach upon the required clear width of the exits. Such waiting shall be restricted to areas separated from the required exit ways by fixed railings not less than 42 inches high. In entrance lobbies only, the exit space may be divided by railings not less than 36 inches high set up in the direction of travel in an approved manner for the regulation of ingress and egress.

(2) A booth or counter for the sale of package merchandise may be placed in the lobby or foyer of a theater where there is sufficient excess space so that the front of the booth or counter can be located not less than 5 feet back of the line marking the width of the lobby or foyer required for exit purposes.

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**Ind 55.18 Mirrors and false openings.** (1) No mirror shall be placed in any part of a theater or assembly hall used by the public for exit purposes, including lobbies, corridors, stairways, ramps or any other exit facility. Where a mirror is used in an auditorium, it shall be placed flush with the wall and with the bottom at least 7 feet above any floor, balcony, gallery or platform.

(2) No false opening or decorative device giving the appearance of a door or window, where none exists, shall be placed in any part of a theater or assembly hall used by the public.

**Ind 55.19 Decorations.** Fabric decorations used in theaters and assembly halls shall be flame proof.

**Ind 55.20 Elevator and vent shafts.** Enclosures for elevator and vent shafts shall be of 2-hour fire-resistive construction as specified in s. Ind 51.04 and all openings therein protected by fire-resistive doors or windows as specified in s. Ind 51.047.

**History:** 1-2-56; am. Register, February, 1971, No. 182, eff. 7-1-71; r. and recr. eff. 8-1-71 and exp. 1-1-72; cr. eff. 1-1-72, Register, July, 1971, No. 187.

**Ind 55.21 Stage separation.** (1) In every theater and assembly hall the stage shall be completely separated from the auditorium by a proscenium wall of 4-hour fire-resistive construction as specified in s. Ind 51.04, except as follows:

(a) In theaters and assembly halls having a capacity not exceeding 500 persons, the proscenium wall shall be of 2-hour fire-resistive construction as specified in s. Ind 51.04, or better.

(b) In theaters and assembly halls an open stage or platform will be permitted without the proscenium wall separation from the auditorium, provided the stage or platform is not more than 6 feet higher or wider than the proscenium opening.

**History:** 1-2-56; am. (1) intro par., and (1) (a), Register, February, 1971, No. 182, eff. 7-1-71; r. and recr. (1) intro. para. and (a), eff. 8-1-71 and exp. 1-1-72, and cr. (1) intro. par. and (a), eff. 1-1-72, Register, July, 1971, No. 187.

**Ind 55.22 Proscenium wall.** (1) The proscenium wall shall extend from an incombustible foundation, or from the lowest fireproof floor below the stage floor, to the highest adjoining roof, except that where a 4-hour fire-resistive wall is required it shall extend at least 2 feet above the highest adjoining roof.

(2) There shall be not more than 2 openings in the proscenium wall below the level of the auditorium floor, and not more than 2 openings other than the proscenium opening, in the proscenium wall above the level of the auditorium floor, except that in addition to the above openings there may be one opening to provide access through the proscenium wall to the orchestra pit.

(3) Each such opening shall not exceed 21 square feet in area and shall be protected by a fire-resistive door as specified in s. Ind 51.047.

**History:** 1-2-56; am. (3), Register, March, 1972, No. 195, eff. 4-1-72.

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**Ind 55.23 Proscenium curtain.** Where a proscenium wall is required for the separation of a stage from an auditorium, the proscenium opening shall be provided with a curtain as approved by the department.

**History:** 1-2-56; r. and recr. Register, May, 1971, No. 185, eff. 6-1-71.

**FP Ind 55.24 Automatic smoke outlet.** Where a fireproof proscenium curtain is required, or provided, the stage shall be provided with one or more automatic smoke outlets, constructed of metal or other incombustible material, placed near the center and above the highest part of the stage, and having a combined area equal to not less than 8% of the area of the stage floor. Vertical louver openings shall be placed not less than 3 feet above the roof and shall be not less than twice the area of the shaft. The smoke outlet shall be designed and constructed so as to open by gravity, and so as to effectively overcome the effects of neglect, rust, dirt, frost, snow, heat, twisting, or warping of the frame work. The louvers, or dampers in the openings shall be held closed by cotton or hemp cords running to the stage floor close to each stage door. Fusible links, or other approved heat release devices, shall be inserted in each cord near the outlets.

**Ind 55.25 Stage vestibules.** All entrances to the stage shall be vestibuled in such manner as to protect the curtain, scenery, and auditorium from drafts of air.

**Ind 55.26 Footlight trough.** The footlight trough shall be made of, or lined with, incombustible material.

**Ind 55.27 Fireproof paint.** All stage scenery, properties, curtains, and decorations made of combustible material, and all woodwork in or about the stage, shall be effectively flame-proofed.

**Ind 55.28 Stage accessory rooms.** (1) All dressing rooms, property rooms, and other storage or workrooms shall be built of incombustible material throughout, and shall be separated from the stage by a special occupancy separation as specified in s. Ind 51.08.

(2) No dressing room or employes' room shall be placed more than one story below the grade line, and no dressing room shall be placed above or below the auditorium unless separated therefrom by a special occupancy separation as specified in s. Ind 51.08.

**FP Ind 55.29 Isolation of hazards.** (1) **GENERAL.** All fuel-fired heating boilers and furnaces, fuel rooms and breeching, storage vaults for paints, oils and similar combustibles, and other similar hazards in a building shall be enclosed with 3-hour fire-resistive construction as specified in s. Ind 51.04, except that in case of an assembly hall accommodating not more than 300 persons, an enclosure of 2-hour fire-resistive construction, as specified in s. Ind 51.04, may be used.

(2) **PROTECTION OF OPENINGS.** All openings shall be protected by fire-rated door assemblies equipped with self-closing devices as specified in s. Ind 51.047.

(3) **WATER HEATING APPLIANCES.** All appliances used for heating water which are fired with solid fuel, liquid fuel or gas shall be located in a boiler or furnace room except that gas-fired booster water heaters used

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exclusively for sanitizing dishes and cooking utensils need not be installed in a fire-resistive enclosure.

**History:** 1-2-56; r. and recr. (2), Register, August, 1957, No. 20, eff. 9-1-57; am. (1), Register, September, 1959, No. 45, eff. 10-1-59; am. (1), Register, February, 1971, No. 182, eff. 7-1-71; r. and recr. (1), eff. 8-1-71, and exp. 1-1-72; cr. (1) eff. 1-1-72, Register, July, 1971, No. 187; am. (1), Register, January, 1980, No. 289, eff. 2-1-80; r. and recr., Register, December, 1981, No. 312, eff. 1-1-82.

**Ind 55.30 Lights and lighting.** (1) Electric lights shall be used for lighting where electric current is available. No oil lamps or other open lights shall be used in or about any stage containing scenery.

(2) No gas lighting of any kind shall be used on any stage containing scenery, nor in any property room, storage room, scene dock, or fly gallery, except in localities where electricity is not available.

(3) In all theaters and assembly halls, all stairways, passageways, and exit doors shall be properly lighted and shall remain lighted throughout every performance or entertainment and until the audience has left the building.

**Ind 55.32 Sanitary facilities.** (1) **TOILET ROOMS.** All occupancies included under the scope of this chapter shall be provided with separate toilet rooms for each sex. Separate toilet rooms for the employes and the general public need not be provided if the toilet rooms are accessible to both the employes and the general public.

(a) *Toilet rooms in connection with stage.* In theaters and assembly halls which are equipped for the showing of stage productions, separate toilet rooms for each sex, furnished with at least one water closet and one lavatory, shall be provided in connection with the stage.

(b) *Toilet room in connection with motion picture booth.* In theaters where motion picture machines are run continuously for a period of more than 2 hours without at least 10 minutes intermission for the motion picture machine operator for each 2-hour period, a toilet room, furnished with one water closet and one lavatory, shall be provided in direct connection with the motion picture booth.

(2) **SANITARY FIXTURES.** The number of water closets, urinals, lavatories and drinking facilities required for the total number of occupants of each sex shall be determined in accordance with the ratios established in Table 55.32, but in no case shall the ratio of the number of fixtures to number of employes be less than those specified in Table 54.12-B. The total number of persons will be considered equally divided between men and women unless a different ratio is established.

TABLE 55.32  
NUMBER OF FIXTURES REQUIRED FOR PLACES OF ASSEMBLY

Type of Occupancy	Type of Fixture				
	Water Closets (WC)		Urinals (U)	Lavatories (L)	Drinking Facilities (DF)
	Males (M)	Females (F)	Males (M)		
Places of assembly					
0-100 persons of each sex	1	1	0		One (DF) for each 150 persons up to 600
101-200 persons of each sex	1	2	1		
201-300 persons of each sex	1	3	2		
301-400 persons of each sex	2	4	2		
401-500 persons of each sex	2	5	3	One (L) for each 2 (WC) or (U), or both, or fraction	
501-600 persons of each sex	2	6	4		
Over 600 persons of each sex	One (WC) for each additional 600 (M), or fraction	One (WC) for each additional 275 (F), or fraction	One (U) for each additional 500 (M), or fraction		One additional (DF) for each additional 3000 persons
Taverns and restaurants <sup>1</sup>	One (WC) for each 75 (M), or fraction	One (WC) for each 30 (F), or fraction	One (U) <sup>2</sup> for each 50 (M), or fraction		0

<sup>1</sup>The ratio of the number of fixtures to the number of persons accommodated in excess of 300 need be one-half of the figures shown.

<sup>2</sup>Urinal may be omitted in restaurants which accommodate less than 25 males and do not serve alcoholic beverages.

**Note:** See also rules of the department of health and social services for sanitary fixtures for public swimming places, mobile home parks, camping grounds, camping resorts, recreational camps and educational camps.

**History:** 1-2-56; r. and recr. Register, December, 1976, No. 252, eff. 1-1-77; am. (2), Register, December, 1977, No. 264, eff. 1-1-78; am. (2), Register, December, 1978, No. 276, eff. 1-1-79; am. (2), Register, December, 1981, No. 312, eff. 1-1-82.

**FP Ind 55.33 Standpipes.** (1) **FIRE DEPARTMENT STANDPIPES.** Fire department standpipes shall be provided in all buildings exceeding 60 feet in height.

(2) **FIRST-AID STANDPIPES.** First-aid standpipes shall be provided in all buildings, except churches and places of worship, having theaters and assembly halls with an occupancy load of more than 750 persons, unless an approved automatic sprinkler system is installed. First-aid standpipes shall also be provided on the stage of every theater and assembly hall where a fire curtain is required.

**History:** 1-2-56; r. and recr. Register, December, 1976, No. 252, eff. 1-1-77; am. (2), Register, December, 1978, No. 276, eff. 1-1-79.

**FP Ind 55.34 \*Fire extinguishers.** Portable fire extinguishers shall be provided and maintained as specified in s. Ind 51.22.

**History:** 1-2-56; r. and recr., Register, December, 1981, No. 312, eff. 1-1-82.

**FP Ind 55.35 Automatic sprinklers.** In every theater and assembly hall where a proscenium curtain is required, approved automatic sprinklers,

\*See Appendix A for further explanatory material.

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as specified in s. Ind 51.23, shall be provided under the stage, under the stage roof, and in the dressing rooms, but not in the automatic smoke outlet.

**Ind 55.39 Use of "safety-base" film.** (1) The requirements of ss. Ind 55.40 through 55.49 will not apply in buildings in which movie projectors are used with "safety-base" film provided the conditions of pars. (a) and (b) are met.

(a) The owner shall submit an affidavit to the department stating that "safety-base" film only will be used in all movie projectors.

(b) The affidavit shall be signed by the owner and the signature notarized.

**Note:** For definition of "owner," see s. 101.01 (2) (i), Stats.

**History:** Cr. Register, April, 1971, No. 184, eff. 5-1-71.

**Ind 55.40 Motion picture machine booths, general.** Every motion picture machine using nitro-cellulose film, together with all auxiliary and associated equipment, shall be enclosed in a booth so arranged as to permit the operator to walk freely on either side and in back of the machine. At least 48 square feet in area shall be provided for one machine, and 24 square feet additional for each machine over one. The ceiling height shall be not less than 7 feet.

**Ind 55.41 Construction of booth.** The floor of each motion picture booth shall be constructed of masonry or reinforced concrete, or shall be covered with not less than 2 inches of fire-resistive material. The walls and ceilings shall be not less than 2-hour fire-resistive construction as specified in s. Ind 51.04.

**History:** 1-2-56; am. Register, February, 1971, No. 182, eff. 7-1-71; r. and recr. eff. 8-1-71 and exp. 1-1-72; cr. eff. 1-1-72, Register, July, 1971, No. 187.

**Ind 55.42 Doors.** (1) The door to the booth shall be not larger than necessary for the safe and proper use and maintenance of the booth and equipment, but in no case shall its dimensions be smaller than 2 feet by 5 feet or larger than 3 feet by 7 feet. The top of the door shall be not less than 12 inches below the ceiling of the booth.

(2) The door shall be a tight-fitting self-closing fire door as specified in s. Ind 51.047, shall open outwardly, and shall not be equipped with any latch.

**History:** 1-2-56; am. (2), Register, February, 1971, No. 182, eff. 7-1-71; r. and recr. (2) eff. 8-1-71 and exp. 1-1-72; cr. (2) eff. 1-1-72, Register, July, 1971, No. 187.

**Ind 55.43 Openings.** (1) Two openings for each motion picture machine may be provided. The one for the operator's view shall not be larger than 200 square inches and the one for projection not larger than 120 square inches. Where separate stereopticon, spot, or floodlight machines are installed, not more than one opening shall be provided for each such machine for both the operator's view and the projection of light. All such openings shall be as small as practicable. **FP**

(2) Each opening shall be provided with an approved gravity shutter set into guides not less than one inch at sides and bottom, and overlapping the top of the opening by at least one inch when closed. Shutters

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shall be not less than No. 10 U.S. Standard gauge iron or equivalent, arranged to move freely in guides of like material and thickness bolted to the wall. Each shutter shall be suspended by a cord and shall be so arranged that closing is by gravity action. A fusible link shall be provided in the cord over each shutter. A link shall also be provided over each magazine, which on operating will close all shutters. A manual release shall be provided near each exit door by which all shutters can be closed simultaneously. Shutters shall not be blocked open nor held open in any manner except by the harness of cords and links as herein described.

**Ind 55.44 Ventilation of booths.** Every booth or room housing projection, sound or any other equipment which vitiates good air conditions or requires the attention of an attendant shall be ventilated as required by s. Ind 64.05. Fresh air intakes in booth walls, except for outside air, shall not exceed 72 square inches in area, nor be more than 3 inches above the floor. They shall be equipped with automatic shutters as described for projection openings.

*History:* 1-2-56; r. and recr. Register, October, 1967, No. 142, eff. 11-1-67; am. Register, December, 1975, No. 240, eff. 1-1-76.

**FP Ind 55.45 Relief outlets.** Every booth or room housing projection, sound or other equipment which constitutes a fire, smoke, explosion or fuming hazard shall be equipped with one or more gravity outlets extending upward from the ceiling through the roof. The net area of such gravity relief outlets shall be equal to one per cent of the room or booth floor area, but not less than 12 inches in diameter. Such outlets shall be constructed as sheet metal ducts having double walls with ½ inch air space between, or better construction. Where a relief outlet passes through, or is within 18 inches of any combustible construction, or passes through any other occupancy, approved masonry flues as specified for chimneys, s. Ind 64.46, shall be used. The relief outlets shall be equipped, at the booth or room outlets, with a gravity shutter which will open automatically under excessive heat conditions. The automatic shutter shall normally be tightly closed where mechanical exhaust ventilation is required in the same room.

**FP Ind 55.46 Electric wiring.** All lights and electric wiring, also motors, arc lamps, rheostats, and associated electrical equipment shall conform in type and arrangement to the requirements of the Wisconsin state electrical code, vol. 2, ch. ILHR 16, Wis. Adm. Code.

**Ind 55.47 Motion picture machine.** Every projection machine shall be securely fastened to the floor, and together with sound head and other associated equipment, shall be of safe design. No part of the film shall be outside of a tight metal enclosure during projection, and the feed and take-up reels shall have riveted, flanged, or welded joints. A shutter shall be placed in front of the condenser, arranged so as to be closed except when held open by the operator, or by some mechanical device which will assure immediate closure when operation of the machine is stopped.

**Ind 55.48 Fire protection in booth; care and use of film (1)** All shelves, furniture and fixtures shall be incombustible. No combustible material shall be permitted to be within such booth, except films and film cement not exceeding one pint. Smoking is prohibited. Heating equipment in booths shall be limited to steam, warm air, hot water or

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electric convection heaters with low surface temperature elements. Radiators shall be protected by ¼ inch mesh screen with the top sloped at least 45° to the horizontal.

(2) Films not in process of rewinding, examination or projection shall be kept in metal containers. Up to 40 pounds of film may be kept in the projection booth in interstate commerce commission shipping containers. Excess over 40 pounds shall be kept in an approved film cabinet, but the total quantity of film in any booth shall not exceed 125 pounds.

(3) Rewinding in the projection booth is prohibited unless done in an approved enclosed type rewind machine. An approved can with self-closing hinged cover shall be provided for scrap film.

(4) Up to 125 pounds of film in addition to that permitted in a projection booth, may be kept in containers as specified above, providing this excess is in a rewind room of not less than 80 square feet area, and of the construction specified in ss. Ind 55.41 and 55.42. Such room shall have a vent of at least 50 square inches in area extending upward to the outside of the building, with a clearance to combustible material conforming to s. Ind 55.45. Furniture and heating shall be as for the projection booth, and smoking is prohibited.

Note: The weight of a 1000 foot roll of 35 millimeter film is assumed as 5 pounds.

**Ind 55.49 Portable booths.** (1) Every portable booth used to confine the fire hazards of a motion picture machine shall be of approved design conforming to the requirements for permanent booths.

(2) Every booth used for more than 3 consecutive performances in one location will be considered a permanent booth.

**Ind 55.50 Maintenance.** All theaters and assembly halls, and all parts thereof, shall be kept clean, sanitary and in good repair. **FP**

**Ind 55.51 Grandstands.** History: 1-2-56; am. (1), Register, February, 1971, No. 182, eff. 7-1-71; r. and rec. (1) eff. 8-1-71 and exp. 1-1-72; cr. (1) eff. 1-1-72, Register, July, 1971, No. 187; r. Register, December, 1981, No. 312, eff. 1-1-82.

**Ind 55.52 Exits.** History: 1-2-56; r. Register, December, 1981, No. 312, eff. 1-1-82.

**Ind 55.53 Aisles and passageways.** History: 1-2-56; r. Register, December, 1981, No. 312, eff. 1-1-82.

**Ind 55.54 Seating.** History: 1-2-56; r. Register, December, 1981, No. 312, eff. 1-1-82.

**Ind 55.55 Guard rails.** History: 1-2-56; r. Register, December, 1981, No. 312, eff. 1-1-82.

**Ind 55.56 Portable grandstands or bleachers.** History: 1-2-56; cr. (8), Register, November, 1963, No. 95, eff. 12-1-63; r. Register, December, 1981, No. 312, eff. 1-1-82.

**Ind 55.57 Inspection.** History: 1-2-56; r. Register, December, 1981, No. 312, eff. 1-1-82.

**Ind 55.58 Electrical installations.** History: 1-2-56; renum. from Ind 55.63, Register, January, 1980, No. 289, eff. 2-1-80; r. Register, December, 1981, No. 312, eff. 1-1-82.

**Ind 55.59 Fire extinguishing equipment.** History: 1-2-56; renum. from Ind 55.64, Register, January, 1980, No. 289, eff. 2-1-80; r. Register, December, 1981, No. 312, eff. 1-1-82.

**Ind 55.60 Illumination; exit lights and signs.** History: 1-2-56; renum. from Ind 55.65, Register, January, 1980, No. 289, eff. 2-1-80; r. Register, December, 1981, No. 312, eff. 1-1-82.

**Ind 55.61 Boiler and furnace room.** History: 1-2-56; renum. from Ind 55.66, Register, January, 1980, No. 289, eff. 2-1-80; r. Register, December, 1981, No. 312, eff. 1-1-82.

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Ind 55.62 Toilet facilities. History: 1-2-56; renum. from Ind 55.67, Register, January, 1980, No. 289, eff. 2-1-80; r. Register, December, 1981, No. 312, eff. 1-1-82.

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